

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard



STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
1275 W. WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2926
WWW.AZAG.GOV

ANDREA M. ESQUER
PRESS SECRETARY
PHONE: (602) 542-8019
CELL PHONE: (602) 725-2200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attorney General's Office Offers Training for Volunteer Mediators

(Phoenix, Ariz. – September 12, 2006) The Attorney General's Office Conflict Resolution Program, in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court's Administrative Office, is offering a 40-hour basic mediation training course free of charge to train persons to mediate local court disputes.

Mediation uses a neutral person to help disputing parties reach an agreement on various matters. Mediation is a valuable alternative to litigation, saving time, money and stress for the parties. It also reduces the courts' heavy caseloads.

These courses are open to all members of the public at no charge. In return for the free training, those who successfully complete the course must volunteer to mediate 16 court disputes with the Maricopa County Justice Court Mediation Program. The disputes include small claims, commercial, truancy and other types of cases. The Attorney General's Office has been training mediators for the courts since 1984 and has its own volunteer mediation program for resolving civil rights cases.

The next 40-hour mediation training in Maricopa County will take place on Sept. 28 and 29 and Oct. 2, 3 and 4. Training will be held at the Carnegie Center, 1101 West Washington, Phoenix.

Training sessions begin each day at 8:30 a.m. with a working lunch and end at 4:30 p.m. All five days of the training must be completed to be eligible to mediate for the courts.

If you are interested in registering for one of these training sessions or have any questions, please contact Garrett Hoover, Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator, in the Civil Rights Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, either by phone at (602) 542-7767 or by email at Garrett.Hoover@azag.gov. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

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